

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 8

1595 Wynkoop Street
DENVER, CO 80202-1129
Phone 800-227-8917
http://www.epa.gov/region08
MAR 2 8 2013

Ref: 8EPR-EP

Mr. George Mathieus Division Administrator Planning, Prevention and Assistance Division Montana Department of Environmental Quality P.O. Box 200901 Helena, MT 59620-0901

> Re: TMDL Approvals for the Lower Gallatin Planning Area TMDLs and Framework Water Quality Improvement Plan

Dear Mr. Mathieus:

We have completed our review of the total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) as submitted by your office for the waterbodies listed in the enclosure to this letter. In accordance with the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et. seq.), we approve all aspects of the TMDLs referenced above as developed for the water quality limited waterbodies as described in Section 303(d)(1). Based on our review, we feel the separate elements of the TMDLs listed in the enclosed table adequately address the pollutants of concern as given in the table, taking into consideration seasonal variation and a margin of safety.

Thank you for submitting these TMDLs for our review and approval. If you have any questions, the most knowledgeable person on my staff is Jason Gildea and he may be reached at 406-457-5028.

Sincerely,

Martin Hestmark

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Assistant Regional Administrator Office of Ecosystems Protection

and Remediation

Enclosures

District on Descripted Peace

cc: Dean Yashan

Montana Department of Environmental Quality P.O. Box 200901 Helena, MT 59620-0901

Robert Ray Montana Department of Environmental Quality P.O. Box 200901 Helena, MT 59620-0901

Michael Pipp Montana Department of Environmental Quality P.O. Box 200901 Helena, MT 59620-0901

Carrie Greeley Montana Department of Environmental Quality P.O. Box 200901 Helena, MT 59620-0901

Peter Ismert U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 1595 Wynkoop Street Denver, Colorado 80202